Claims

1.   A method of delegating authority to control network resources, comprising:

(a)   providing parameters associated with network resources; and

(b)   creating at least one rule for delegating a scope of authority to create at least one

policy-based rule for controlling access and usage of network resources, the at least one

rule for delegating comprising at least one of the parameters and an identifier designating

to whom the scope of authority is delegated, the at least one policy-based rule comprising

at least one of the parameters.

2.   The method of claim 1 further comprising creating at least one other rule for delegating a

separate scope of authority to create at least one additional rule for delegating another scope of

authority to create at least one other policy-based rule for controlling access and usage of

network resources, the at least one other rule for delegating and the at least one additional rule

for delegating each comprising at least one of the parameters and an identifier designating to

whom the scope of authority is delegated, the at least one other policy-based rule comprising at

least one of the parameters.

3.   The method of claim 1 wherein the scope of authority in step (b) includes a scope of

authority to delegate another scope of authority to create at least one other policy-based rule.

4.   The method of claim 1 wherein step (a) comprises providing priority as one of the

parameters.

5.   A method of controlling network performance, comprising:

(a)   providing parameters associated with network resources;

(b)   creating at least one rule for delegating a scope of authority to create at least one

policy-based rule for controlling access and usage of network resources, the at least one

rule for delegating comprising at least one of the parameters and an identifier designating to whom the scope of authority is delegated, the at least one policy-based rule comprising at least one of the parameters;

(c) determining if a created one of the policy-based rules is within the delegated scope of authority; and

(d) modifying the created one of the policy-based rules if the created one of the policy-based rules is not within the delegated scope of authority such that the created one of the policy-based rules becomes within the delegated scope of authority.

6. The method of claim 5 wherein step (d) comprises ignoring the created one of the policy-based rules not within the delegated scope of authority.

7. The method of claim 5 wherein step (d) comprises ignoring a portion of the created one of the policy-based rules not within the delegated scope of authority.

8. The method of claim 5 further comprising creating at least one other rule for delegating a separate scope of authority to create at least one additional rule for delegating another scope of authority to create at least one other policy-based rule for controlling access and usage of network resources, the at least one other rule for delegating and the at least one additional rule for delegating each comprising at least one of the parameters and an identifier designating to whom the scope of authority is delegated, the at least one other policy-based rule comprising at least one of the parameters.

9. The method of claim 5 wherein the scope of authority in step (b) includes a scope of authority to delegate another scope of authority to create at least one other policy-based rule.

10. The method of claim 5 wherein step (a) comprises providing priority as one of the parameters.

11.   A system for controlling network performance, comprising:

(a)   a module for providing parameters associated with network resources;

(b)   a module for creating at least one rule for delegating a scope of authority to create at least one policy-based rule for controlling access and usage of network resources, the at least one rule for delegating comprising at least one of the parameters and an identifier designating to whom the scope of authority is delegated, the at least one policy-based rule comprising at least on of the parameters;

(c)   a module for determining if a created one of the policy-based rules is within the delegated scope of authority; and

(d)   a module for modifying the created one of the policy-based rules if the created one of the policy based rules is not within the delegated scope of authority such that the created one of the policy-based rules becomes within the delegated scope of authority.

12.   The system of claim 11 wherein the module for modifying the created one of the policy-based rules modifies the created one of the policy-based rules by ignoring the created one of the policy-based rules if the created one of the policy-based rules is not within the delegated scope of authority.

13.   The system of claim 11 wherein the module for modifying the created one of the policy-based rules modifies the created one of the policy-based rules by ignoring a portion of the created one of the policy-based rules not within the delegated scope of authority.

14.   The system of claim 11 further comprising a module for creating at least one other rule for delegating a separate scope of authority to create at least one additional rule for delegating another scope of authority to create at least one other policy-based rule for controlling access and usage of network resources, the at least one other rule for delegating and the at least one

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additional rule for delegating each comprising at least one of the parameters and an identifier

designating to whom the scope of authority is delegated, the at least one other policy-based rule

comprising at least one of the parameters.

15.   The system of claim 11 wherein the scope of authority includes a scope of authority to

delegate another scope of authority to create at least one other policy-based rule.

16.   The system of claim 11 wherein the parameters associated with network resources

include at least priority.